

29 Aug 78

SFRC

OLC #13-3080

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ATTENTION :

FROM :

ACEA

SUBJECT :

Query from Senate Committee on Foreign
Relations Regarding Possible Presence of
Major General Fabian Ver in the U.S.
in Late June 1978

2. Attached, for your information, however, is a clipping from the 8-14 July 1978 issue of the anti-Marcos newspaper "Philippine News" which is published in San Francisco. According to the clipping, Major General Ver is alleged to be conspiring with the Mafia to "liquidate (Steve) Psinakis and (Robert) Curtis."



GEN. FABIAN VER



NORMAN KIRST

What are they up to?

KIRST CONFIRMS:

GEN. VER IS IN U. S.; WHO'S NEXT VICTIM?

Secret mission's goal
of contacting criminal
elements in US bared

• A NEWS ANALYSIS

By ALEX A. ESCLAMADO
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief

SAN FRANCISCO - The presence of General Fabian Ver in the United States has been confirmed by Norman Kirst, one of the key figures in the fantastic 'treasure hunt' story now unfolding.

Ver is the highest military assistant of Philippine Dictator Ferdinand Marcos, now formally naming himself Prime Minister.

Kirst is one of the key American contacts used by Marcos in the retrieval project involving the estimated \$100 billion World War II Japanese loot reportedly buried in numerous locations in the Philippines. It was Kirst who strongly persuaded Las Vegas businessman Robert Curtis to get involved with the Philippine venture. He also brought world renowned Chicago psychic Olof Jonsson to Manila to help locate the fabulous hidden treasures.

Two weeks ago, Kirst became the last of the cast of leading characters in the treasure hunt drama, residing in the United States, to be interviewed by Philippine News columnist Steve Psinakis. As expected by Psinakis, Kirst virtually confirmed the basic facts of the Psinakis detailed expose' covering the treasure hunt except that he took great pains to deny the direct participation of Mr. Marcos.

The confirmation by Kirst of the Ver presence in the United States, therefore, is given great credence.

Two weeks ago, Philippine News published reports from Manila that high-ranking military intelligence officers left for the United States to "attend to the problem of the Treasure Hunt" disclosures which are putting Dictator Marcos in a very embarrassing situation before the international community. The same sources indicated that the sensitive top mission being undertaken by the military top brass was to contact criminal elements in the United States to "take care of" the causes of the present troubles of the Marcoses.

At press time, Philippine News has received corroborating report on the subject in the form of a headline story of the Las Vegas Sun, written by Wade Cavanaugh, a Sun staff writer.

The Sun story was headlined - LAS VEGAS HIT TARGET, with the following subhead - General Enters U.S. To Contact Mob; Marks for Assassination by Philippine Dictator.

The report of writer Cavanaugh which appears on

To page 15

Gen. Ver is in US; who's next victim?

From page 1

the Las Vegas Sun issue of July 5, 1978, is reprinted below -

A Las Vegas man and a San Francisco columnist have been marked for assassination by agents of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos after disclosing the dictator's plans to secretly retrieve \$100 billion in buried Japanese gold. The Sun has learned that General Fabian Ver, head of the dreaded Philippine secret police who is Marcos' right-hand man along with three unidentified Philippine colonels have secretly entered the United States within the past two weeks to meet with underworld figures in San Francisco and Chicago to set up the murder contract.

Reportedly marked for death are Robert Curtis of Las Vegas, who is one of the original members of the Leber group who assisted Marcos in preliminary planning in 1975 for recovery of the treasure buried in 172 locations in the Philippine Islands and surrounding waters; and Steve Psinakis, a columnist for the San Francisco Philippine News who, along with the Sun, wrote in-depth articles on the Marcos expose'.

Last week Norman Kirst of Fond-du-Lac, Wisconsin, another member of the original Leber group, told an associate in the Chicago area "this is the hottest thing that ever hit the country over there (the Philippines) and it is the most sensitive because it is a C7 security classification. It is not to be publicized under any condition. Even though the fire is raging (meaning the fire of publicity), the more gasoline you pour into it, the higher it gets and the more damage it can do. One has to do with the publicity that's going on, and the other is with the generals that are here and General Ver who are working with the Mafia to liquidate Curtis and Psinakis."

Kirst, who could not be reached for comment Wednesday, told his associate that two liquidator generals were recognized in San Francisco last week. "We confirm the secret mission of General Ver and the colonels in Chicago. Nobody except God is supposed to know they are here at the Blackstone Hotel, not even his daughter."

Sun stories on the buried treasure along with those by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson and Psinakis have been secretly distributed through the underground sources in the Philippines by those opposed to the dictator's martial law regime. Kirst was quoted to say that Marcos is apparently waiting for publicity on the treasure trove to die down, then order the reported murder contract to be carried out. Kirst confirmed that Marcos is extremely concerned about the treasure being publicized stating the reason the contract may be delayed is "because it would be pretty hard to do it right in the middle of the publicity."

THE MIJARES CONNECTION

The first time that General Ver was reported present in the United States was in November-December, 1976, immediately after the election of President Jimmy Carter. At that time, it was reported by intelligence sources that he was in contact with Filipino defector Primitivo Mijares.

On January 6, 1977, Mijares was last seen in the company of Querube Makalintal, Jr., a Philippine Internal Revenue attache assigned in the San Francisco consulate. Makalintal and Mijares were seen boarding a plane obviously bound for the Philippines.

Jack Anderson's assistant Les Whitten received a



PRIMITIVO "TIBO" MIJARES

letter from Mijares postmarked in Honolulu, Hawaii, January 7, 1977, which read as follows -

"Dear Les -

By the time you get this note, I should - with God's blessing - be back safely in U.S. territory after a daring sortie to the Philippines.

For security reasons, I would request you not to breathe a word of this daring trip to any soul until I can call you by phone on or about January 13, 1977.

You may check on this only with Col. Manzano, tel. (415) 776-2213.

I'll send you proof from Manila a letter with this (figure of a star) signature.

Wish me luck.

Thanks and regards.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) Tibo Mijares"

A similar letter was sent by Mijares to Colonel Narciso Manzano in San Francisco. In the Manzano letter, Mijares probably had a premonition of what was going to happen to him when he assigned to Manzano all rights to his book, "The Conjugal Dictatorship," in case something happened to him during his "daring" trip to the Philippines.

That was the last time Mijares was ever heard from. One-and-a-half years had lapsed since Mijares disappeared. In May, 1977, his only son in the Philippines was found brutally murdered.

Until now the Mijares case is still "under investigation" by the Department of Justice.

Mijares was a key witness to charges that Mr. Ferdinand Marcos attempted to bribe Mijares to prevent him from testifying before the Fraser congressional committee. The other vital witness to the bribe attempt was Marcos' assistant, Guillermo de Vega, who was also murdered inside his office in Malacanang Palace at the height of the bribery investigation in the U.S.

Makalintal, who was also involved in other illegal intelligence activities against anti-martial law elements in the U.S. has not reappeared either. Sources close to the Philippine consulate in San Francisco confirm that Makalintal was, in fact, an intelligence operative holding the title of revenue attache.

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WHO IS NEXT VICTIM?

Reports of General Ver's presence in the U.S. have become all the more disturbing when viewed in the light that two other "generals" who have been reportedly involved in previous liquidation missions in the Philippines have been sighted in San Francisco.

Their presence and the apparent indifference of intelligence authorities in the U.S. on former illegal activities of Marcos agents in the country have created serious concern among anti-martial law forces here.

CURTIS COMMENTS

Robert Curtis, the Las Vegas businessman who "blew

75th year of Filipino migration to Hawaii

Dr. Eric Casino, anthro-

the whistle" on Marcos and his World War II treasure, was reached for comment by Philippine News at press time.

When asked about the possible threat to his life, he said -

"I am not surprised by the threat. I certainly anticipated it. I know that these stories and the truth of them, as Steve (Psinakis) releases the documents, are going to make things very difficult for Marcos. Quite frankly, I don't think I have given him (Marcos) any choice. I think that Marcos would be making a big mistake to kill me now or Steve, for that matter. I can understand Marcos' concern. But I am sure the truth will out."

When asked as to what steps he is taking to protect himself, Curtis stated -

"I'm trying to keep away, as much as possible, from the public. I am concerned only because Marcos has panicked. And people who are panicky sometimes are irrational in their actions. But we are taking every necessary precaution to protect ourselves."

PSINAKIS STATEMENT

Reached at her San Francisco residence at press time, Mrs. Presy Psinakis made the following remarks in connection with Ver's presence in the U.S. -

"My husband and I have been receiving threats during the past four years. The first threatening call was made on November 26, 1974, when my brother Geny (Eugenio Lopez, Jr.) was still on his hunger strike.

"The systematic harassment, not only of threatening calls but also of direct threats, surveillance, etc., has failed to divert us from our course. Perhaps, Mr. Marcos has finally realized that the only way to stop us from our commitment to the cause of the restoration of human rights and democracy to the Philippines is to eliminate us physically."

Asked if she was concerned for the safety of her family, she said -

"Of course, we are concerned. But there is no way, really, that one can prevent the execution of a Mafia contract. We are taking whatever normal precautions we can take but we are not hiding nor are we surrounded by bodyguards."

Steve Psinakis, reached at a local television station, expressed disgust over the attitudes of local investigative agencies towards illegal activities of reported Philippine government agents.

My experience with the San Francisco FBI officers charged with investigations of illegal activities of Philippine government agents in this area has been disappointing. The case of Primitivo Mijares who is believed to be a victim of Philippine agents, is still open after three years of investigation. I am quite apprehensive whether the same FBI agents and local police authorities would take appropriate steps on the current case," Psinakis stated.

"I wonder if the FBI agents in San Francisco have been informed that former Secretary Henry Kissinger no longer dictates the foreign policy of this country towards the Marcos regime," Psinakis sarcastically concluded.